

In a managed health care plan:

- You have a regular doctor.
This person is your Primary Care Provider.
- You can get regular check-ups.
- There is no limit on the number of visits you or your children can have with your doctor.
- There are no co-pays.
- You can reach your provider's office or health plan 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- Your benefits are the same as regular Medicaid.
- You can access clinics, laboratories, specialists and hospitals.

Talk to your doctor about which managed care health plan(s) he/she participates in.

Dental services are available for everyone, either through your managed care health plan or regular Medicaid.

To find out about additional services offered by managed care health plans, you can contact the plans by calling the Member Services phone numbers listed in this Guide.

Important numbers

If you have a problem with your health plan, call:

**New York State
Health Department
Complaint Hotline
1-800-206-8125**

For copies of this guide, call:

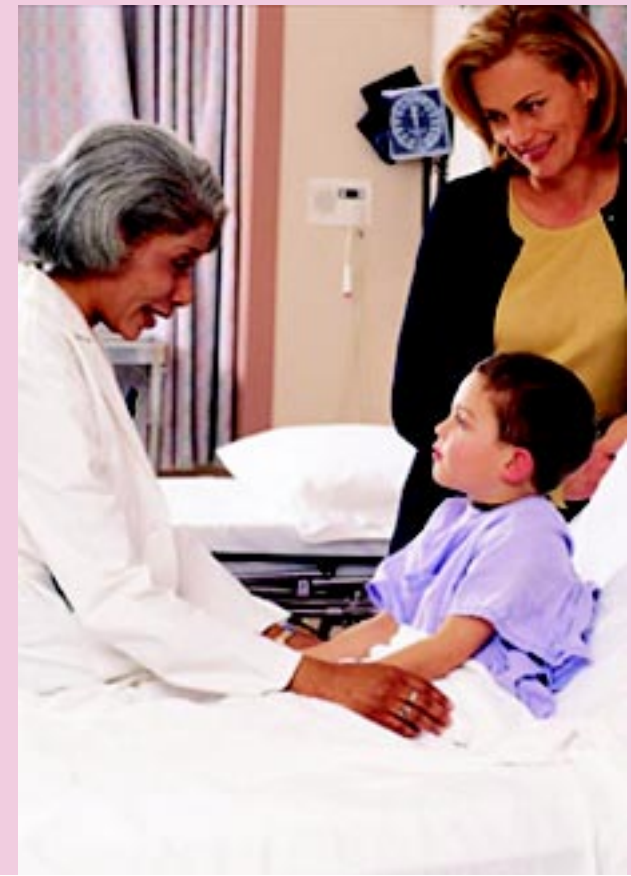
**New York State
Health Department
518-486-6074**



State of New York
George E. Pataki, Governor

Department of Health
Antonia C. Novello, M.D., M.P.H., Dr.P.H., Commissioner

A Consumer's Guide to Medicaid Managed Care in Western New York



Choosing a managed care plan that meets the health care needs of you and your family is an important decision. This brochure will help you make that decision. It has information about the quality of care offered by the different plans, and people's opinions about the care and services the plans provide.

There are other things you need to think about too. Is your doctor in the plan? How close is the doctor's office to your home? Does the plan have special services that you and your family need?

Talk with friends, your doctor and your local social services counselors before making a decision. Ask questions to make sure you know what each plan offers.

Managed care plans in Western New York		Allegany	Cattaraugus	Chautauqua	Erie	Genesee	Livingston	Monroe	Niagara	Ontario	Orleans	Seneca	Wayne	Yates
	Member Services Phone Numbers													
Blue Choice Option www.excellus.com	1-800-338-4995						•	•		•		•	•	•
Buffalo Community Health/PlusMed www.univerahealthcare.com/wny/plusmed.html	1-800-683-3781				•									
Community Blue www.bcbswny.com	1-866-231-0847	•	•	•	•	•			•		•			
Fidelis Care New York www.fideliscare.org	1-888-343-3547		•	•	•				•		•			
Independent Health's MediSource www.independenthealth.com	1-800-501-3439				•				•					
Preferred Care www.preferredcare.org	1-800-852-7826					•	•	•		•			•	
Premier Option www.excellus.com	1-800-338-4995										•			

NOTE: Not every plan may be accepting new enrollment. Please call your local social services department or the plan member services phone number listed above to make sure.

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Key

More stars mean better health plan performance

- ★★★ Above average
- ★★ Average
- ★ Below average

Health Plan

Key	The Quality of Care provided by health plans to children is measured by:				The Quality of Care provided by health plans to adults is measured by:				Patient Satisfaction with access and service is measured by these five questions:					Overall Rating
	Percent of two-year-olds who got their shots	Percent of two-year-olds who have been tested for lead poisoning	Percent of adolescents (12-21) who had a well-care visit	Percent of members (5-17) with asthma who received appropriate medication	Percent of pregnant women receiving a prenatal visit early in their pregnancy	Percent of women (21-64) who had a Pap test in past 3 years	Percent of members (18- 56) with asthma who received appropriate medication	Percent of members who had routine check-ups in past year	Would you recommend your health plan to your family or friends?	Did you receive health plan services quickly?	Did you get the care you needed from your health plan?	How happy are you with your health plan?	How happy are you with your children's health plan?	
Health Plan	Childhood Immunization	Lead Screening	Adolescent Well-Care	Use of Asthma Medication	Timeliness of Prenatal Care	Cervical Cancer Screening	Use of Asthma Medication	Access to Care	Recommend Health Plan	Timeliness of Service	Availability of Care	General Satisfaction	Children's Satisfaction	
Blue Choice Option/Premier Option	★★★	★★	★	★★	★★	★★	★★	★★	★★★	★★	★★	★★	★★	<div></div> 69%
Buffalo Community Health/PlusMed	★	★★★	★★★★	★★	★	★★	★★	★★	★★	★	★★	★★	★★	<div></div> 64%
Community Blue	★★	★	★★★★	★★	★★	★★	★★	★★★★	★★	★★★★	★★	★★	★★	<div></div> 72%
Fidelis Care New York	★★	★★	★★★★	★★	★★	★★	★★	★	★	★★	★★	★	★★	<div></div> 62%
Independent Health's MediSource	★★	★★	★★★★	★★	★★★★	★★	★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	<div></div> 85%
Preferred Care	★★★★	★★	★	★★	★★	★★	★★	★★	★★	★★	★★	★★	★★	<div></div> 67%

Ratings are based on a comparison of plan rates to regional averages.

The Quality ratings are from information submitted by the health plans.

Patient Satisfaction ratings are from a Department of Health survey.